

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held its regular meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2011 in the Cabinet Room of the John G. Townsend Building, Dover, Delaware.

Present were: Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; G. Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt, Dr. Terry M. Whittaker, Dr. James L. Wilson and Dr. Lillian Lowery, Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education. Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director was also present.

Also in attendance were Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education; Dan Cruce, Deputy Secretary of Education/Chief of Staff; Dr. Linda Rogers, Associate Secretary for Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Amelia Hodges, Associate Secretary for College and Workforce Readiness.

Attending portions of the meeting in conjunction with agenda items: Charles Michels, Professional Standards Board (PSB); John Hindman, Deputy Attorney General, Paula Fontello, Deputy Attorney General; Donna Mitchell, Joanne Reihm, Dr. Michael Stetter, Dr. Susan Haberstroh, Anthony Albence, Department of Elections for New Castle County, Howard Sholl, Department of Elections for New Castle County, Salome Thomas-El, Thomas Edison Charter School; Alan Phillips, Ron Love, Brian Curtis, Christopher Ruszkowski, John Carwell and Alison Kepner.

Also attending: Walter P.J. Gilefski; Herb Harris, Pearson; Christi Linton, CTB/McGraw-Hill; Jim Purcell, Communities in Schools; Melissa Hentges, Innovative Schools; Melissa Hopkins, Rodel Foundation; G. Scott Reihm, Delaware Association of State Administrators (DASA); and Deb Stevens, Delaware State Education Association (DSEA).

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Melendez stated that he would be presiding over the monthly meeting. The December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education was called to order at 1:00 p.m. He welcomed all guests to the State Board's monthly public meeting.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Vice President Melendez stated that the first order of business was approval of the agenda. He explained that the agenda was modified and reposted on December 8<sup>th</sup> to include an action item on the Reapportioned Nominating Districts for New Castle County School Districts. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Mr. Melendez	None.
Mr. Heffernan	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	
Dr. Wilson	

### **School Bus Safety Poster Awards Presentation**

Ron Love, Education Associate for Pupil Transportation, explained that the statewide school bus safety poster contest was held in October to promote National School Bus Safety Week October 17-21, 2011. The theme used this year was “I See The Driver – The Driver Sees Me”. Mr. Love noted that this year the contest attracted 155 entrants which is the largest number of participants in the history of the contest. There are four divisions for the poster contest: grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and Special Education grades K-8. The winning posters at the State level were submitted to the National School Bus Safety Week Committee, for final judging at the National Association of Pupil Transportation Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Love introduced the winners of each Division for recognition by the State Board and the Secretary of Education.

Division I (K-2) - **Ella Willetts**  
Grade 2 WB Simpson Elementary  
Caesar Rodney School District      Teacher: Mr. Kenny  
Parents: Simon & Melissa Willetts

Division II (3-5) - **Flor Velasquez Paredes**  
Grade 5 North Georgetown Elementary  
Indian River School District      Teacher: Mrs. VanDrunen  
Parents: Israel & Margarita Velasquez

Division III (6-8) - **Rebecca Pierre**

Talley Middle School

Brandywine School District

Parents: Karine & Datus Pierre

Teacher: Ms. O'Leary

Division IV (Special Education K-8) - **Rashad Wallace**

Blades Elementary

Seaford School District

Parents: Crystal Woolford

Teacher: Ms. Covelli

The students received a bookmark on behalf of the State Board of Education, a wrist band and pin from Secretary Lowery, a check on behalf of the Delaware School Bus Contractors Association, a plaque on behalf of the Delaware Association of Pupil Transportation Officials and a school bus lunchbox on behalf of the Transportation Office. Congratulations were extended to the winners.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

It was announced that the Board members received the minutes from the regular meeting of November 17, 2011 and the minutes from the Board's retreat of November 17 through November 19, 2011. Mr. Melendez asked if there were any additions or revisions to the regular meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 17, 2011 as distributed. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:

Nays:

Mr. Melendez

None

Mr. Heffernan

Mrs. Rutt

Dr. Whittaker

Dr. Wilson

A motion was made by Dr. Wilson to approve the minutes from the retreat of November 17-19, 2011 as distributed. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:	Abstention:
Mr. Melendez	None	Dr. Whittaker
Mr. Heffernan		
Mrs. Rutt		
Dr. Wilson		

Dr. Whittaker abstained as he was not present for the entire retreat.

### **Formal Public Comment**

It was indicated that this was the time the Board set aside for formal public comment. It was announced that two individuals signed up to address the State Board.

Walter Gilefski addressed the State Board and explained he was a retired educator and is a member of the Woodbridge School District Board of Education. With the comments he wished to make, he was speaking for himself. Mr. Gilefski made a few general comments on public education and commented on books. He noted that books are near and dear to his heart and his love for books also includes giving books to those who would read them and profit from them. He cited specific books that he feels has changed people's lives. Mr. Gilefski then presented each State Board member with Diane Ravitch's book The Death and Life of the Great American School System.

Jim Purcell, President of Communities in Schools of Delaware addressed the State Board on dropout prevention and community support. He distributed a one page statement on the mission of Communities in Schools of Delaware as well as information on a national model for community-based services that helps in dropout prevention. The model uses site coordinators who work with schools and integrate local services that are available to meet the needs of students. Mr. Purcell commented that it takes a community to educate a child and schools should not be doing it alone. Creating a community of support does have an impact on students and the dropout rate; Mr. Purcell cited some of the positive results the program is having on Delaware students. There are currently twelve Delaware schools that are participating in the program.

### **Committee Reports**

Dr. Wilson attended the State Board Retreat and participated in a webinar sponsored by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) on an

update of the Smarter Balance consortium. He also attended the DPAS Component 5 Growth measure development workshop earlier in the day.

Mr. Heffernan attended the Retreat.

Mrs. Rutt attended the Retreat and the Delaware School Boards Association (DSBA) annual meeting. Ed Czerwinski was recognized as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. He is a former member of the Appoquinimink School District Board. Lucy Gettman, the Director of Federal Programs from the National School Board Association was the keynote speaker and spoke about ESEA and the state of education in the nation.

Dr. Whittaker also attended the DSBA Annual meeting and participated in the first day of the State Board's retreat.

Ms. Johnson noted that her monthly activities report was distributed to the Board members but highlighted a few. As a follow up to the State Board's retreat, she drafted a strategic plan based on the Board's vision and mission. Ms. Johnson attended the National Governor's Association (NGA) STEM Summit as a member of the Delaware team, participated in conversations on ESEA flexibility and on the charter performance framework.

On behalf of the State Board, Ms. Johnson drafted a letter of support for Delaware's application for State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant. She also discussed the State Board's meeting that evening with local board members, charter board members and various stakeholders. The program for the outreach meeting will focus on current educational issues and provide an opportunity for conversation and discussion on those issues.

Mr. Melendez attended the Retreat and a gathering with the Indian River School District Superintendent and a few of their Board members. The district has many accomplishments to celebrate but is also looking at ways to improve and take it to the next level.

#### **State Board Budget FY 2012 – Action Item**

Mr. Melendez indicated that the State Board discussed its budget at the last meeting. It was noted that an updated budget was in each Board member's addendum

folder. It was suggested that future budgets include a legend for the highlighted areas. Mr. Melendez stated that this was an action item and asked if there was a motion to approve the budget as presented.

A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve State Board budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilson and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Mr. Melendez	None
Mr. Heffernan	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	
Dr. Wilson	

### **Technology Items**

Ms. Johnson reported that at the Board's retreat she was directed to gather further information about data governance systems and in particular eBoards, which is an online web-based document governance. eBoards is used by many state and local boards. A contract has been received and is currently being reviewed. Once it has been reviewed, it will be presented to the State Board.

Ms. Johnson also explained that in an effort to be more paper free, all of today's presentations are available on the website for those who listen to the audio recording of the meeting. She also announced that handouts for tonight's outreach meeting are available on the Board's website. As the Board reviews a data governance system, all handouts and materials would be available through that portal. The Board would review all its documents on a device that would also allow for note taking. This would eliminate the reams of paper that are used to distribute the monthly Board books.

Mr. Melendez stated that the Board's Budget Committee would be meeting to discuss these items so the Board can move forward with this initiative.

### **Retreat Comments**

Ms. Johnson commented that in addition to the excellent presentations by Department staff and the charter office at the Retreat, Brad Hull from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) assisted the State Board in redeveloping and revising its goals to align with the State's education plan. Ms. Johnson

prepared for the Board a draft plan and requested comments and feedback from the Board. Once the plan is finalized, it will be published and available on the Board's website. Board members thanked Ms. Johnson for planning a very successful retreat.

### **DCAS Update**

Dr. Michael Stetter, Director, Accountability Resources Workgroup, Teaching & Learning Branch, provided an update on the DCAS assessment. The DCAS mid-year assessment window opened on December 5<sup>th</sup> and will continue until February 10<sup>th</sup>. The trend seems to be that schools are either focusing on testing either all before the winter recess or waiting until the first of the year. Dr. Stetter explained that Lexile embedded items are part of this assessment window and will provide teachers with instructional information on their students by gauging their reading complexity levels. Field testing of items is also embedded in the mid-year assessment window. Separate field testing will take place for Algebra II and Integrated Math III end of course exams. The Board was briefed on the recent meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee and Dr. Stetter announced that the alternate assessment has completed its first window. It was explained that this was an off year for NAEP and the SAT test for all Grade 11 public education students is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>. The PSAT was administered in October.

There was discussion on common core items included in DCAS. As items are added they are aligned with the common core standards and Dr. Stetter stated that end of course exams for Algebra and the Integrated Math courses are already aligned to the common core standards.

### **Dropout Summary**

Dr. Michael Stetter, Director, Accountability Resources Workgroup, Teaching & Learning Branch, presented a summary report on the state's school dropout data. It was explained that the definition of a dropout is an individual who was enrolled and attended at the beginning of the current school year and was withdrawn by parent, legal guardian or relative caregiver at age 16 or older or was withdrawn by self after the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. A dropout is also defined as an individual who was enrolled at the end of the previous year but did not attend any days of the current year and who does not meet exclusionary conditions. Exclusionary conditions include graduated from high school or an approved

education program, transferred to another public or private school with official documentation, moved out of state with official documentation or deceased.

Dr. Stetter reported that Delaware's dropout rate is calculated as prescribed by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) and for the 2010-2011 school year from grades 9-12, the dropout rate was 3.7 percent. Of the 39,124 students enrolled, 1,442 students dropped out of school. It was explained that more males than females drop out with 43.3% of them being in the ninth grade. The percentages decrease the longer the students are in school with 27.6% dropping out in tenth grade, 16.3% in the eleventh grade and 12.8% as seniors.

The Board was updated on improvements to the data collection of dropouts including their reason for withdrawing. Through the Dropout Early Warning System (DEWS) schools can identify students through data who are at the highest risk of dropping out of school. These students can receive interventions, counseling, academic support and outreach to their families to help them remain in school.

### **Governor's Education Agenda**

The State Board of Education received an update on the Data Coach Project that is part of the State's Race to the Top grant. Donna Mitchell from the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit stated that Wireless Generation was selected as the partner for this project through the Request for Proposal (RFP) contract process in January 2011. Since then, the pilot program was designed and implemented with five coaches. This past summer, staffing and planning were completed for the full launch and ten days of professional development. The full launch included 29 coaches in 197 schools. Two models of implementation are available with 38% of the schools using the direct facilitation. With this model, Wireless Generation data coaches facilitate the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). With the coach the coach model, which is used by 62% of the schools, teacher leaders serve as the PLC facilitator/coach.

Ms. Mitchell highlighted the Data Coach Manual which is the framework used by Generation Wireless and the Coach the Coach school coaches. It lays out the four domains: data inference, differentiated instruction, cycles of inquiry and data conversations, which have six phases of progressive skills. Phases one through three will



be focused on year one with 4, 5 and 6 being the focus for the second year. The six phases are: 1) understanding data, adjusting whole class instruction; 2) progress monitoring and instruction to small group differentiation; 3) adjustment and individualization of instruction; 4) measuring effectiveness using aggregated data; 5) action planning for subpopulations and 6) transparent data culture. It explains the PLCs focus during collaborative planning time and what schools are asked to do as well as some of the conditions for success such as attendance at all PLCs, preparation, and professionalism. Ms. Mitchell concluded by highlighting the early lessons that have been learned.

### **ESEA Flexibility**

Daniel Cruce, Deputy Secretary/Chief of Staff, updated the members of the State Board of Education on Delaware's ESEA Flexibility application timeline. In September, the U.S. Department of Education invited states to apply for ESEA flexibility from certain requirements of the current No Child Left Behind (NCLB). States can request flexibility in the annual measurable objectives (AMO) and not meet the 100% proficiency by 2013-14. Schools and districts not meeting adequate yearly progress would not automatically be subject to the current NCLB requirements of school improvement, corrective action and/or restructuring. To receive this flexibility, states must demonstrate compliance with or a plan to meet compliance on four principles: 1) college and career ready expectations for all students; 2) state developed differentiated recognition, accountability and support; 3) supporting effective instructional and leadership; and 4) reducing duplication and unnecessary burden. Mr. Cruce commented that principles 1, 3 and 4 were pretty straight forward and a draft requesting comment was distributed on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Principle 2 is expected to generate more comments and was distributed on December 9<sup>th</sup>. It notes that the new statewide AMOs will reflect a 50% reduction of non proficient students by subgroups with a floor. The floor is based on the 2011 AMOs (50% Reading and 49% Mathematics). Other highlights of Principle 2 include differentiated accountability, recognition and support. Town hall meetings and teleconferences have been scheduled in order to receive comments and feedback from all stakeholders, educators, and the public. It was noted that the Innovative Action Team

which played a role in the State's Race to the Top Application has been reconvened to review the State's ESEA flexibility request. Secretary Lowery commented that the goal is to reduce the number of students not performing on grade level and to close the achievement gap. Assisting in the presentation was Department staff members Dr. Susan Haberstroh and Joanne Reihm.

### **Secretary's Report, Review and Discussion**

Secretary Lowery stated that the plans for this year's Partnership Zone schools are due December 23<sup>rd</sup> except Laurel Middle which did not start the process until later.

The Board recessed at 3:30 and reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

### **Department of Education Regulations**

Dr. Susan Haberstroh presented the regulations that were on the Board's agenda.

#### **Regulation 525 Requirements for Career and Technical Education Programs (For Discussion)**

The Secretary of Education is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to amend 14 DE Admin. Code 525 Requirements for Career and Technical Education Programs 525 Requirements for Career and Technical Education Programs. The amendments add the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) as a recognized student career and technical student organization and delete the ability for the local school district or charter school to have programs that are not based on the content standards of the state.

The student organizations provide hands on and practical experience and are helpful in improving student achievement as measured against the state achievement standards. The elimination of the local standard language reflects the development and existence of the state standards, national CTE standards, the national Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) standards and DPAS II component 5 elements.

Action on this regulation amendment will be proposed at the January State Board meeting.

**Regulation 910 Delaware General Educational Development (GED) Endorsement  
(For Action)**

The Secretary of Education is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to amend 14 DE Admin. Code 910 Delaware General Educational Development (GED) Endorsement. This regulation has been reviewed as part of the five year cycle and changes were made to the title and references to the test to be consistent with the American Council of Education's titling of the test and other GED® brand usage guidelines. The GED® is a brand name and registered trademark of the American Council on Education (ACE). GED® and GED Testing Service® are registered trademarks of the American Council on Education (ACE). They may not be used or reproduced without the express written permission of ACE or GED Testing Service. The GED® and GED Testing Service® brands are administered by GED testing Service LLC under license from the American Council on Education. The following highlights are from the ACE website:

- GED® tests are designed to measure the skills and knowledge equivalent to a high school course of study.
- The GED® test battery comprises five content area assessments:
  - Language Arts, Reading
  - Language Arts, Writing (including an essay)
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social Studies
- The GED® tests are currently offered only in a paper-pencil format at Official GED Testing Centers™ - they cannot be taken online.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the amendment to 14 Delaware Administrative Code 910 as presented by the Department. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Mr. Melendez	None.
Mr. Heffernan	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	
Dr. Wilson	

The Board signed the appropriate Order.

## **Professional Standards Board**

Charles Michels, Executive Director for the Professional Standards Board presented the PSB items on the agenda.

### **Regulation 1505 Standard Certificate (For Discussion)**

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to amend regulation DE Admin. Code 1505 Standard Certificate. The regulation concerns the requirements for certification of educational personnel, pursuant to 14 Del.C. §1220(a). Amendments include several additions to definitions and affording the Department of Education the final approval of requisite coursework or professional development, as mandated for specific Standard Certificates or for individuals working toward their first Standard Certificate who have not graduated from an educator preparation program. Some reformatting was also done to allow for easier understanding. This regulation sets forth the general requirements for specific grade level, content area, specialist and administrative Standard Certificates.

### **Regulation 1506 Emergency Certificate (For Discussion)**

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to amend regulation DE Admin. Code 1506 Emergency Certificate. The regulation concerns the requirements for certification of educational personnel, pursuant to 14 Del.C. §1220(a) who have otherwise obtained employment or an offer of employment with an employing district and hold a valid Delaware Initial, Continuing, or Advanced License, but lack necessary skills and knowledge to immediately meet certification requirements in a specific content area. It is necessary to amend this regulation in order to reduce the period of time an Emergency Certificate is valid and to now require due diligence on the part of the individual to make progress toward the specific Standard Certificate for which the

Emergency Certificate was issued in order to be eligible for a maximum of a one year extension. This regulation sets forth the requirements for an Emergency Certificate.

Mr. Michels noted that comments were received from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens but have not been reviewed. Action on these amendments will be proposed at the January State Board meeting.

### **Charter Schools**

John Carwell from the Charter School Office presented the Charter School items to the State Board.

#### **Thomas Edison Charter School**

Salome Thomas-El, Head of School at Thomas Edison Charter School, provided an update on the charter school. Mr. Thomas-El is in his second year at the school coming from a very successful urban charter school in Philadelphia. His philosophy is to develop a culture of success at the school and believes that all students can be successful. It was explained that each teacher teaches reading in addition to their content area. The school offers a longer school year for its students and a very successful chess team. Mr. Thomas-El commented on the value of participating on the chess team. He stated that he wanted his students to feel like a family with a caring staff and for the students to feel safe.

Mr. Thomas-El has visited other charter schools in the state and noted that the charter schools need to share their knowledge and success with each other. He also spoke of his visits to parents of his students and his expectation that students go on to high school as a high achieving student and then to college. He also asks that the students come back after college and help the community that helped them. Mr. Thomas-El explained that Thomas Edison has not only high expectations but also attainable expectations for its students.

#### **Update on Renewal Application Initial Hearing**

It was announced that Academy of Dover and Prestige are currently in the renewal process.

**Progress on Conditions Placed on Pencader  
Business and Finance Charter High School  
(For Information)**

Pencader Business and Finance Charter High School was placed on probation at the July 21, 2011 State Board meeting. The monthly report was provided to the Board.

**Progress on Conditions Placed on Reach Academy for Girls  
(For Information)**

Reach Academy for Girls was placed on probation at the July 21, 2011 State Board meeting. The monthly report was provided to the Board.

**Charter Schools Update  
(For Information)**

The monthly update on charter schools was received by the State Board with the agenda materials.

**Reapportioned Nominating Districts for New Castle  
County School Districts  
(For Action)**

Anthony J. Albence, Director, State of Delaware Department of Elections for New Castle County and Howard G. Sholl, Jr., Deputy Director, State of Delaware Department of Elections for New Castle County, presented and explained the Commissioner's reapportioned plan for school districts in New Castle County. The Election Commissioner is required by statute to seek the approval of the State Board of Education of the statutorily mandated reapportioned school board nominating districts for the Brandywine School District, the Christina School District, the Colonial School District and the Red Clay Consolidated School District.

The Board received maps that outline the changes. There was no change in the Brandywine School District, five changes in the Christina School District, six changes in Colonial and four changes in the Red Clay Consolidated School District.

A motion was made by Dr. Wilson to approve the reapportioned school board nominating districts for the Brandywine School District, the Christina School District, the Colonial School District and the Red Clay Consolidated School District as drawn by the

Election Commissioner and presented to the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Mr. Melendez	None.
Mr. Heffernan	
Mrs. Rutt	
Dr. Whittaker	
Dr. Wilson	

### **Special State Board Work Session on ESEA Flexibility**

It was the consensus of the State Board that a special work session on ESEA flexibility was not necessary. The Department has scheduled town hall meetings as well as other opportunities and Board members will receive a listing so they can participate as their schedule allows.

### **Appeals and Reviews**

Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General and State Board legal counsel, announced that the appeals on the agenda were for information only noting that the appeals have been received.

#### **Appeal of Appoquinimink School District (2011-08) (For Information)**

Notice was given that this appeal was received by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the State Board of Education who in accordance with prior authorization by the State Board appointed Dr. Tom Pledge on November 1, 2011 to act as the hearing officer.

#### **A.S. v. Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (2011-09) (For Information)**

Notice is given that this appeal was received by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the State Board of Education who in accordance with prior authorization by the State Board appointed David Taylor on November 9, 2011 to act as the hearing officer.

#### **A.D. v. Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (2011-10) (For Information)**

Notice is given that this appeal was received by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the State Board of Education who in accordance with prior authorization by the State Board appointed Dr. Tom Pledge on November 16, 2011 to act as the hearing officer.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Melendez reminded the Board members that the outreach meeting with local school board members, charter board members as well as educational stakeholders was scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. at the Collette Center.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian M. Lowery  
Executive Secretary and  
Secretary of Education/